

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147229 TOSEC 070035

EXDIS FOR TARNOFF FROM HELMAN IO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AORG, EGEN, FR

SUBJECT: UN RESTRUCTURING AND FRENCH CONCERN ABOUT SENIOR
LEVEL UN POST

1. I WANT YOU TO BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING ON THE CHANCE
THAT DE GUIRINGAUD WILL RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH THE
SECRETARY. THE FRENCH HAVE RAISED THIS WITH US IN THE PAST
AT A SENIOR LEVEL AND KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET MAY BE DISCUSSING
IT WITH HABIB ON FRIDAY.

2. WE ARE CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR A SUBSTANTIAL
RESTRUCTURING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT. THE
FRENCH HAVE LAUNCHED A HIGH-LEVEL CAMPAIGN IN THE UN
ECONOMIC/SOCIAL RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE TO PROTECT "THEIR
POSITION" OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS. THE ISSUE IS WHETHER WE SHOULD SUPPORT A
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 147229 TOSEC 070035

BASIC RESTRUCTURING OF THE UN SECRETARIAT.

3. A MAJOR PART OF THE UN RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE
IS BETTER COORDINATION AND PLANNING OF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVI-
TIES OF THE UN SYSTEM. CURRENTLY, EACH OF THE UN
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES HAS ITS OWN TAXATION CAPABILITY
THROUGH THE ASSESSED BUDGET AND EACH COMPETES FOR DIRECT

VOLUNTARY FUNDS FROM DONOR GOVERNMENTS. THE BURGEONING UN

BUDGET FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IS COMING UNDER HEAVY CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM BECAUSE THERE IS NO COMPREHENSIVE RATIONALE, PRIORITIES OR SYSTEMWIDE OBJECTIVES ARTICULATED FOR THOSE ACTIVITIES.

4. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE PROPOSED, AS PART OF THE RESTRUCTURING EFFORT, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THIS DIRECTOR GENERAL WOULD HAVE OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATION OF UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT. (OF COURSE, EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS THAT HE WOULD BE AN LDC NATIONAL.)

5. IN AN URGENT EVENING CALL (MAY 19) ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET, WE WERE INFORMED OF THE PERSONAL IMPORTANCE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD ATTACHES TO AVOIDING THE CREATION OF SUCH A POSITION.

6. THE FRENCH BELIEVE THAT SUCH A POSITION WOULD DESTROY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (ESA), DISTORT UN ECONOMIC STATISTICS FOR POLITICAL REASONS, REQUIRE A CHARTER AMENDMENT (WHICH WE DOUBT), AND ENCOURAGE THE SOVIETS TO DEMAND AN ANALOGOUS POSITION FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 147229 TOSEC 070035

THEMSELVES LEADING TO A "TROIKA" AGAINST WHICH THE WEST SO VIGOROUSLY OBJECTED IN THE PAST.

7. WALDHEIM TOLD THE SECRETARY ON MAY 19 THAT THE REAL PROBLEM WAS THAT THE FRENCH WANTED TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS OF THE UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, A POST CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY A FRENCH NATIONAL WHO IS NOT HIGHLY REGARDED BY THE G-77 AND OTHERS. WALDHEIM SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE POSITION TO SOMEONE SUCH AS AKUND OF PAKISTAN AND FIND ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL POST FOR THE FRENCH. WALDHEIM PROMISED THAT HE WOULD GET BACK TO US IN TWO WEEKS ON THE MATTER, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HE HAS NOT DONE SO.

8. ON THE MERITS THE CASE FOR RESTRUCTURING IS VERY STRONG. THE PRESIDENT IS COMMITTED. THE RIBICOFF COMMITTEE REPORT AND A RECENT CONGRESSIONAL SYMPOSIUM STRONGLY URGED THAT WE SUPPORT A MORE RATIONAL APPROACH TO UN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. THE RECENT ACTION BY THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE IN DELETING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS FROM OUR APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST ALSO INDICATES THE NEED TO DEVELOP A BETTER APPROACH TOWARD UN DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVITIES.

9. A NECESSARY ELEMENT OF THE RESTRUCTURING IS HIGH-LEVEL CAPACITY FOR MANAGEMENT AND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR A THOROUGH RATIONALIZATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE UN SYSTEM. WE WISH, HOWEVER, TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FRENCH CONCERNS AND PRESERVE THE PRESTIGE OF A HIGH FRENCH POST IN THE SECRETARIAT.

10. THUS, AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT, WE ARE CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL FOR A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (NOT EXPLICITLY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AS THE FRENCH APPEAR TO MISUNDERSTAND).
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 147229 TOSEC 070035

WE BELIEVE SUCH A POSITION MIGHT GENERATE LDC SUPPORT FOR STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT, MEET LDC CONCERNS FOR MORE INVOLVEMENT IN HIGH-LEVEL UN POSTS IN NEW YORK, AND PROVIDE A HIGHEST LEVEL POST FOR A DEVELOPED COUNTRY NATIONAL AGAINST THE CONTINGENCY THAT WE MAY ONE DAY WISH TO ACQUIESCE TO PRESSURES FOR AN LDC SECRETARY GENERAL NEXT TIME AROUND. ADDITIONALLY, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT IF THE G-77 WANT TO CREATE A DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THEMSELVES, THEY CANNOT BE STOPPED.

11. YET OUR POSSIBLE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL RETAINS FRENCH INFLUENCE. EVEN THOUGH THERE WOULD BE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT (AT LEAST WITH WALDHEIM IN OFFICE) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD CONCENTRATE MOSTLY IN THE ECONOMIC/SOCIAL AREA, THE POSITION OF UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS WOULD NOT BE FORMALLY ECLIPSED. (FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW, THIS ARRANGEMENT ALSO WOULD AVOID A DIRECT SUBORDINATION OF THE MORSE POSITION AS UNDP ADMINISTRATOR.)

12. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD LEAD TO A "TROIKA" SITUATION. THE SOVIETS AND THE EAST EUROPEANS DO NOT HAVE THE CLOUT, IN TERMS OF EITHER VOTES OR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, TO FORCE A THIRD HIGH-LEVEL POSITION IN THE UN.

13. THE FRENCH MAY BECOME ISOLATED AMONG THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON THE ISSUE. THERE IS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR A RESTRUCTURING AND IN RECENT CONSULTATIONS WE HELD IN WASHINGTON WITH THE UK AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THEY INDICATED THAT THEY COULD SUPPORT A PROPOSAL FOR A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL.
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PAGE 05 STATE 147229 TOSEC 070035

14. WE NEED SOON TO TAKE A STAND ON THE RESTRUCTURING
ISSUE. A DRAFT REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECOSOC

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING IS DUE IN A FEW WEEKS
AND WILL BE DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY ON THE FRINGES OF THE
SUMMER ECOSOC MEETING IN GENEVA THAT WILL BE ATTENDED BY
ANDY YOUNG. THE ISSUE WILL PROBABLY COME TO AHEAD IN THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL.

TALKING POINTS (IF RAISED)

-- I FULLY APPRECIATE THE "PERSONAL IMPORTANCE" YOU
ATTACH TO AVOIDING THE CREATION OF A POSITION OF UN
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

-- WE SHARE MANY OF THE FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT CREATING
SUCH A POSITION TO BE HELD BY A G-77 NATIONAL.

-- HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE EFFECTIVE-
NESS OF UN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES,
INCLUDING INTERNAL MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS, IS A MATTER OF
GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US:

-- PRESIDENT CARTER IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO MAKING
A MAJOR EFFORT TOWARD RESTRUCTURING AND REFORMING
THE UN SYSTEM;

-- THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HAVE SHOWN
SIGNS OF INCREASING ALARM ABOUT THE OPERATIONS
OF THE UN SYSTEM;

-- PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE WILL REQUIRE
MORE CONFIDENCE IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UN
SYSTEM.

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PAGE 06 STATE 147229 TOSEC 070035

-- WE BELIEVE IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE G-77 COULD
IF THEY DESIRE IMPOSE THEIR IDEA FOR A DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION,
WHICH WOULD LARGELY REDUCE THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF
THE POSITION AS THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS NOW HELD BY A FRENCHMAN; WE RECOGNIZE

IT ALSO WOULD DO THE SAME FOR THE POSITION OF ADMINIS-
TRATOR OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM NOW HELD BY AN
AMERICAN.

-- WE WOULD LIKE THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE TO GIVE SERIOUS
CONSIDERATION TO THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE OF A FULL DEPUTY
SECRETARY GENERAL (NOT EXPLICITLY LIMITED TO ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, AS FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD APPEARS TO
MISUNDERSTAND) WHICH WE BELIEVE MIGHT SATISFY G-77 IN-
TERESTS WHILE STILL PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE

POSITION NOW HELD BY A FRENCHMAN.

-- IF RESTRUCTURING IS TO BE EFFECTIVE, WE BELIEVE A
PROPOSAL OF THIS SORT IS NECESSARY TO ENHANCE THE
CAPACITY OF THE UN SECRETARIAT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL
CONCERNING MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF THE VARIOUS
UN ACTIVITIES AND TO COMPLEMENT THE SECRETARY GENERAL
WHO COULD USE HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORT. CHRISTOPHER

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